

Message Text

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71

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6879

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1700

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, CD, GB, GH, CG, CM, NG

SUBJECT: ROK MISSION TO WEST AFRICA

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN EFFORT TO SOLICIT SUPPORT FOR ROK ON KOREAN QUESTION AT UNGA AND TO STRENGTHEN ROK POSITION IN FACE OF NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES, MOFA WILL SEND OUT SERIES OF MISSIONS, BEGINNING WITH ONE TO WEST AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

1. MOFA HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT ROK AMBASSADOR TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA PAK TONG CHIN, ACCOMPANIED BY LEE CHONG SU OF THE MOFA AFRICA SECTION, WILL TOUR SIX COUNTRIES IN WEST AFRICA, WITH THE FOLLOWING ITINERARY: MARCH 22 TO 26, NIGER; MARCH 27 TO 31, GHANA; APRIL 1 TO 6, GABON; APRIL 6 TO 12, ZAIRE; APRIL 12 TO 15, CAMEROON; AND APRIL 15 TO 18, CHAD.

2. MAIN PURPOSE OF TRIP WILL BE TO SOLICIT SUPPORT FOR ROK ON KOREAN QUESTION AT UN. MISSION WILL BE
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DISCUSSING DEVELOPMENTS ON KOREAN PENINSULA AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS. THE MISSION IS ONE OF SEVERAL PLANNED BY MOFA FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, PARTLY IN RESPONSE TO THE PROLIFERATION OF SIMILAR NORTH KOREAN MISSIONS.

3. GHANA WAS VISITED BY THE LAST ROK MISSION TO WEST AFRICA, WHEN THE ROK RECEIVED A FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO ITS REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A CONSULATE IN ACCRA. HOWEVER, MOFA NOW FEARS THAT IF A CONSULATE IS ESTABLISHED THE GOG WOULD BE DISPOSED TO PERMIT NORTH KOREA TO SET UP ITS OWN CONSULATE OR TRADE MISSION. AMBASSADOR PAK WILL BE SEEKING TO CONVINCE GOG THAT IT CAN ALLOW THE ROK CONSULATE WITHOUT EXTENDING THE SAME FAVOR TO THE NORTH. IN ADDITION, MOFA FEELS THAT GHANA' S CANDIDACY FOR A VICE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNGA MERITS INCLUSION OF ACCRA IN AMBASSADOR PAK' S ITINERARY.

5. THE MISSION' S VISIT TO CHAD WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE ROK AMBASSADOR CHONG VISITS FORT LAMY TO PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS BUT IS NOT RELATED TO ANY DIFFICULTIES CONNECTED WITH THE PRESENTATION, AS REPORTED IN FORT LAMY' S 0351.

5. ROK TELEVISION STATION MARCH 19 AND VERNACULAR PRESS MARCH 20 CARRIED FONMIN KIM YONG SHIK' S REMARK AT MARCH 19 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT ROKG WOULD NOT WITHDRAW AMBASSADOR TO CAMEROON EVEN WITH A NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR IN RESIDENCE THERE. STATEMENT DID NOT APPEAR IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS AND MOFA INFORMS US THAT IT WAS MADE OFF THE RECORD. ACCORDING TO MOFA, HOWEVER, IT IS A TRUE STATEMENT AND SIGNALS THE ABANDONMENT OF THE ROK' S ALLSTEIN DOCTRINE IN AFRICA. IT MAY THEREFORE HAVE SOME BEARING ON MISSION' S VISITS TO YAOUNDE AND KINSHASA.
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